

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present patent application are numbered 1-28. Claims 1, 12, and 18 have been amended. The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated May 18, 2004 have been carefully considered by the Applicants. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the remaining claims.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Robertson (U.S. Patent No. 6,608,850). Applicants have reviewed the above cited reference and respectfully submit that embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1 and 18 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Robertson reference.

Independent Claims 1 and 18

Applicants respectfully point out that independent Claims 1 and 18 each recite embodiments that the present invention includes, in part:

[A] method of record selection comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one of a plurality of record entries on a display;

recognizing a contact point on said display
upon which physical contact is made with said
display and marking a first start point on a first
record entry;

recognizing the contiguous displacement of
said contact point on said display horizontally
across said first record entry to a first end
point;

determining if a first distance between said
first start point and said first end point exceeds
a distance delta; and

automatically selecting said first record
entry provided said first distance exceeds said
distance delta. (Emphasis Added)

The present invention pertains to a method and system for
record selection. In particular, independent Claims 1 and 18
each recite that a display screen point upon which physical
contact is made with the display marks a first start point on
a record entry. The contiguous displacement of the contact
point across the record entry which exceeds a distance,
delta, automatically selects the record entry.

Applicants respectfully note that the cited reference,
Robertson, does not teach nor suggest the present method and
system for record selection, in which a contact point with
the display marks a first start point on a record entry, as
claimed in independent Claims 1 and 18.

In contrast to independent Claims 1 and 18 of the
present invention, the Robertson reference discloses a method
and processor controlled system for transporting a selected
display object within or between navigable workspaces that

does not provide for the marking of a start point of a record entry by a first contact point, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 18. The technique described in the Robertson reference is particularly useful in large 2D or 3D visualization workspaces to move display objects from a first workspace to a second workspace. Selection of a display object included in a workspace as disclosed in the Robertson reference is by user signals indicating the location of that display feature or of the display object in the workspace. Specifically, the Robertson reference generally discloses the selection of a display object as follows:

In general, an action by a user "indicates" a thing, an event, or characteristic when the action demonstrates or points out the thing, event or characteristic in a manner that is distinguishable from actions that do not indicate the thing, event, or characteristic. (See Robertson, col. 13, lines 29-40).

That is, selection is made generally by an action that points out, "demonstrates," or "indicates" the object. Various selection techniques are disclosed in the Robertson reference and include a drag-and-drop technique in which the system user selects a display object by using a pointing device (e.g., a mouse controlled cursor) to point to the display object with selection enabled by pressing a button on the mouse. (See Robertson, col. 1, lines 55-60). Another technique described is the cut-and-paste technique in which a

user selects the text display object with the pointing device, executes a cut command to transport the text display object to a clipboard, and then pastes the text display object at another location. (See Robertson, col. 2, lines 8-42). In these various techniques, selection is made from a cursor controlled pointing device (e.g., a mouse controlled cursor). Furthermore, the Robertson reference discloses the projection and control of a viewpoint into a workspace through a user input device, such as a key combinations depressed on a keyboard, pressing of buttons on a mouse, or through a body-mounted device that senses actual physical movement.

On the other hand, the claimed embodiment of the present invention specifically discloses a contact point on a display marking a first start point on a record entry. As such, the Robertson reference fails to disclose the selection of a record entry by a contact point, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 18. While the Robertson reference does describe the selection of an object through an action that demonstrates or indicates an object, the Robertson reference does not specifically disclose the action as being the recognition of a contact point upon which physical contact is made with a display marking a first start point on a record entry, as recited in independent Claims 1 and 18 of the present invention. Further, the Robertson reference fails to disclose the automatic selection of the record entry after

the contiguous displacement of the contact point across the record entry which exceeds a distance, δ .

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as disclosed in independent Claims 1 and 18 are not anticipated by the Robertson reference, and are in a condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-11 which depend from independent Claim 1 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Similarly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 19-28 which depend from independent Claim 18 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 2-3 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson. Claims 4 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson, and further in view of Murray (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,089). Claims 5 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson, and further in view of Michaels (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,167). Claims 6 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson, further in view of Michaels, and further in view of Johnson, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent No.

6,240,167) (hereinafter referred to as, "Johnson"). Claims 7-11 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson, further in view of Michaels, and further yet in view of Chester, Thomas, and Robert Alden, mastering Excel 97, 1997, Subex, 4th Edition, pages 66-67 (hereinafter referred to as, "Chester"). Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson, further in view of Murray, and further yet in view of Michaels. Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robertson, further in view of Murray, further in view of Michaels, and further yet in view of Chester. Applicants have reviewed the above cited references and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 2-17, and 19-28 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Robertson reference taken alone or in combination with the Murray, Michaels, Johnson, and Chester references.

Independent Claim 12

Regarding independent Claim 12, embodiments of the presently claimed invention disclose a method of record selection, as presently claimed. In particular, independent Claim 12 of the present invention recites, in part:

A method of record selection comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one of a plurality of
record entries in line-item form on a display;
recognizing pressure captured on a digitizer

marking a first start point on a first record entry,
said first start point located to the left side of
said first record entry as displayed in line-item
form on said display;
recognizing the contiguous displacement of said
pressure horizontally across said first record
entry, from left to right, to a first end point;
determining if a first distance between said
first start point and said first end point exceeds a
distance delta; and
automatically selecting said first record entry
provided said first distance exceeds said distance
delta. (Emphasis Added)

The claimed embodiment of Claim 12 pertains to a method of record selection. In particular, independent Claim 12 recites that pressure captured on a digitizer marks a first start point on a record entry. The contiguous displacement of the contact point across the record entry which exceeds a distance delta automatically selects the record entry.

Applicants respectfully note that the Robertson reference does not teach nor suggest the present invention as claimed in independent Claim 12 for analogous reasons set forth above with respect to independent Claim 1. While the Robertson reference does describe the selection of an object through an action that demonstrates or indicates an object, the Robertson reference nevertheless does not specifically disclose the action as being the recognition of pressure on a digitizer marking a first start point on a record entry, as recited in independent Claim 12. Further, the Robertson reference fails to anticipate or render obvious the

contiguous displacement of the pressure across the record entry in which the record entry is selected if the contiguous displacement exceeds a distance, delta, as claimed.

Further, the Murray and Michaels references fail to overcome the shortcomings of the Robertson reference. Specifically, the Murray and Michaels references fail to disclose, anticipate, or render obvious any action that includes the selection of an object in which pressure on a digitizer marks a first start point on a record entry and the automatic selection of the record entry if a contiguous displacement of the pressure exceeds a distance, delta, as claimed.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Robertson reference taken alone or in combination with the Murray and Michaels references do not show nor suggest the method of the present invention as recited in independent Claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 12 overcomes the cited reference, and as such Claims 13-17 which depend on independent Claim 12 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Dependent Claims 1-11, and 19-28

Applicants respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as disclosed in dependent Claims 2-11,

and 19-28 are not anticipated by the Robertson reference taken alone or in combination with the Murray, Michaels, Johnson, and Chester references since they depend on allowable base Claims 1 and 18 as previously discussed. As such, dependent Claims 2-11, and 19-28 are in a condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims 1 and 18.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims.


Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-28 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

Wagner, Murabito & Hao LLP

Date: 20 September 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lin C. Hsu', is written over a horizontal line.

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